(c) the steps taken or being taken for empowerment of minorities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Human Development Report, 2004: Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World parepared by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a global report underlining the need for respecting diversity and building.more inclusive socities by adopting policies that explicitly recognize cultural differences. The report itself recognizes the constitutional and legal safeguard provided for minorities in India.

Backward classes among minorities

2485. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backward class people among minorities indicating the reasons for their backwardness

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Government for removal of their backwardness;

(c) whether Government would keep in mind both of these points while providing reservation to the minorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) Some minority communities are notified in the list of other Backward Classes. The benefits given to backward classes are also available to the minority community.

Representation from minority community

2486. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from minority community leaders stating that some State Governments are enacting laws impinging upon the minority rights enshrined in the constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?